

WHAT THE BODY OF CHRIST *CAN* AND *SHOULD* LOOK LIKE

Colossians 4:7–18

A Christmas Carol is the story of a mean, selfish old man named Ebenezer Scrooge who is visited by a series of ghosts come to show him how his behaviour has affected others. At one point of this supernatural education, Scrooge is led to the home of his ill-treated employee, Bob Cratchit, and, looking through the front window, observes something powerful and foreign. He sees a family marked by contentment and generosity in spite of poverty, by joy and love in spite of hardship. Looking through that window, Scrooge sees what a family *can* and *should* look like. The closing verses of Colossians have a similar tone. As Paul extends his greetings and says his farewells, it's as though readers are being brought to the front window of his ministry, looking in on a snapshot of the life he enjoyed. And as believers peer inside they see what a family *can* and *should* look like, that is, a *church* family.

WHAT the Body of Christ *Can* and *Should* Look Like

A family love vv. 7–10, 12–15, 18

that rectifies, v. 10
Acts 12:25; 13:13; 15:36–40; 2 Tim 4:11

unifies, and vv. 11, 13, 15–16
Col 2:9–11

edifies. vv. 7–9, 12, 17

HOW the Body of Christ *Can* Look As It *Should* vv. 7, 11–12, 17